TROPICAL STORM HANK (25W)

Tropical Storm (TS) Hank (25W) originated as a surface circulation in the South China Sea on the 27th of September. For several days, synoptic data suggested the presence of this circulation, but with light winds and minimal convection. It first appeared as a suspect area on the 30 September Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABPW). The system's convective signature experienced fluctuation over the next few days. No Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was issued on this system; JTWC issued a warning at 0000Z on 3 October with a 35 kt (70 m/s) intensity based on synoptic data and cloud signature. Hank peaked at 40 kt (80 m/s) during the next 6 to 12 hours, before being subjected to strong vertical wind shear. During its early existence, the disturbance drifted in the South China Sea, eventually moving equatorward. At about the time JTWC began issuing warnings, it began tracking northward along the Vietnam coast. Although infrared imagery indicated very convincing convective cloud masses over land as early as 2032Z on October 3, the circulation center was actually further east and landfall was not made until about 0000Z on the 5th. Landfall occurred near 18ºN (figure 3-25-1). No reports of damage were received by JTWC.

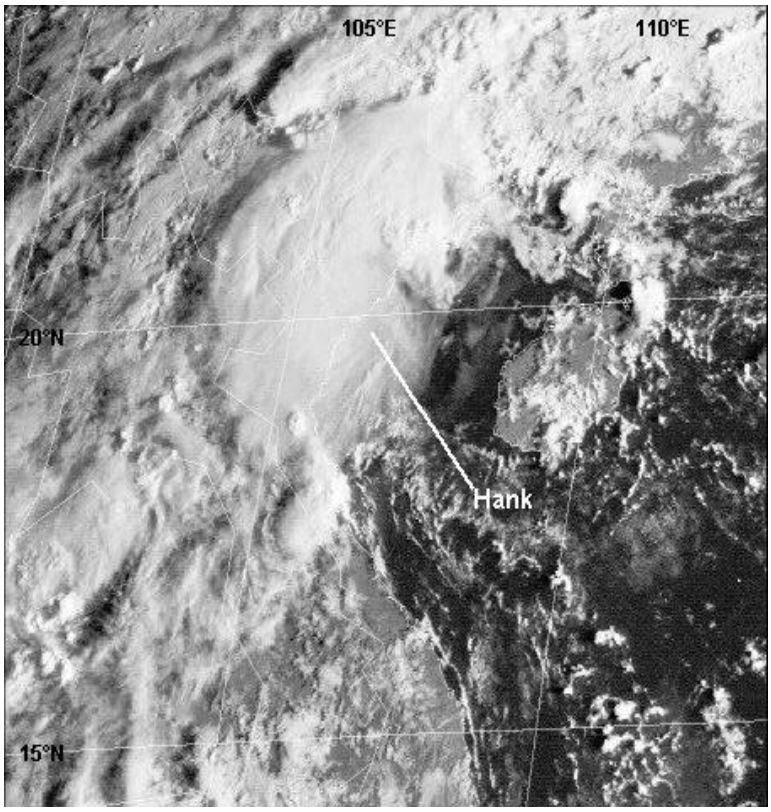
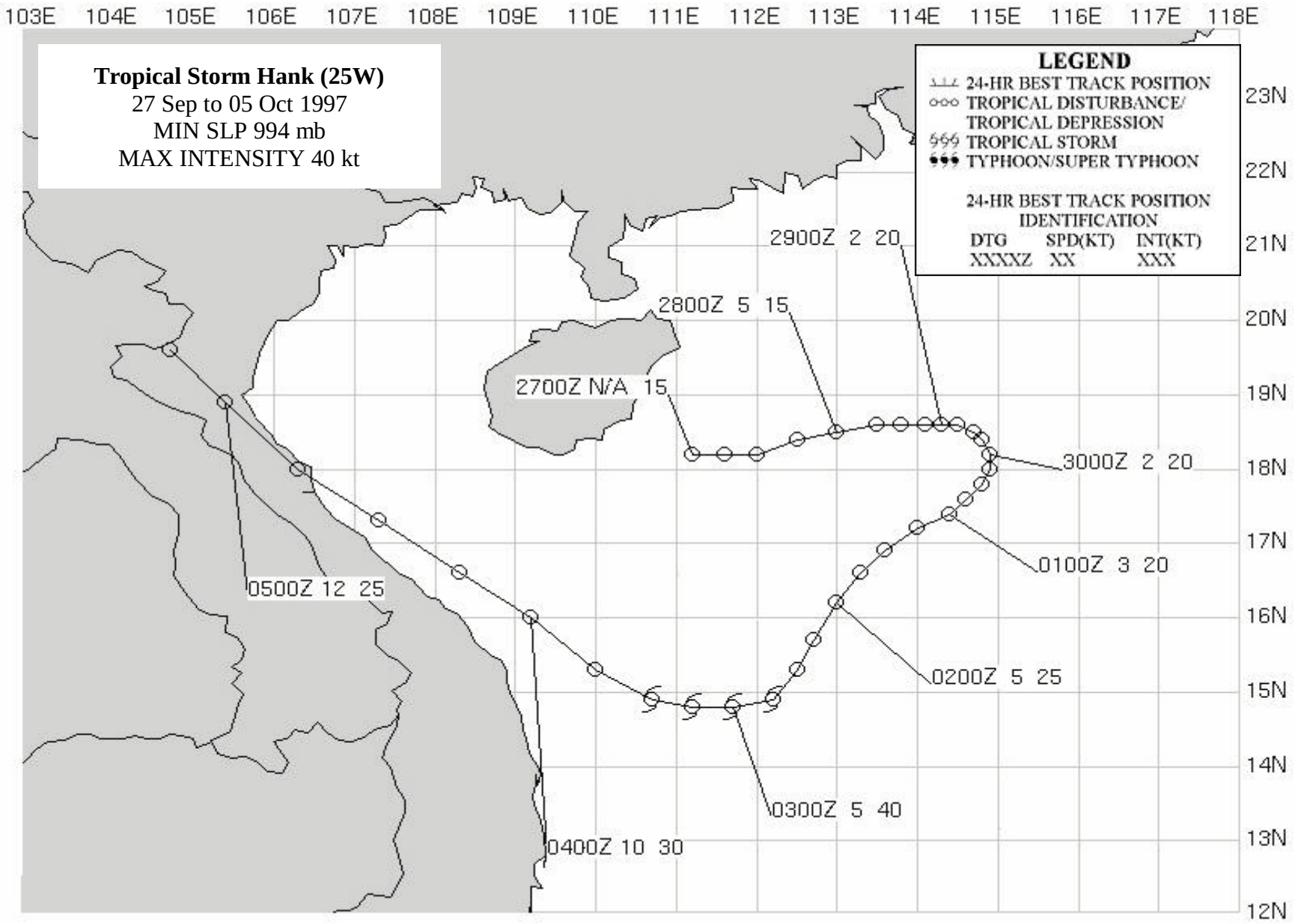


Figure 3-25-1 Hank makes landfall (042333Z October visible GMS imagery).


Tropical Storm Hank (25W)
27 Sep to 05 Oct 1997
MIN SLP 994 mb
MAX INTENSITY 40 kt
LEGEND
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/ TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION IDENTIFICATION
DTG SPD(KT) INT(KT)
XXXXZ XX XXX
103E 104E 105E 106E 107E 108E 109E 110E 111E 112E 113E 114E 115E 116E 117E 118E
23N 22N 21N 20N 19N 18N 17N 16N 15N 14N 13N 12N
2900Z 2 20
2800Z 5 15
2700Z N/A 15
3000Z 2 20
0100Z 3 20
0200Z 5 25
0300Z 5 40
0400Z 10 30
0500Z 12 25